

# Word Forms

## Description

Students benefit from knowing related forms of words. Many of the Vocabulary Builder words with selections have important related forms. A Word Form Chart, similar to the one on the next page, is an excellent way to give students access to related word forms. This chart enables students to readily visualize vocabulary connections and to apply this new terminology in discussion of the selections and in follow-up writing tasks.

## Steps

1. Determine which Vocabulary Builder words have other forms that are useful for students to know. Using the blank Word Form Chart provided, insert these new words in the appropriate category: *Noun*, *Verb*, *Adjective*, or *Adverb*. Not all words have forms for all parts of speech.
2. Distribute the chart to students and elicit from them any related word forms with which they may already be familiar. Then supply any critical unfamiliar forms. Refrain from supplying related word forms that are beyond the developmental range of your students. For example, when introducing the lesson term *prejudice* (noun) to a group of sixth-grade students with a high percentage of second-language learners and less-proficient readers, it would certainly be beneficial to point out the high-frequency adjective form *prejudiced* but inappropriate and overwhelming to dwell on the verb form *to prejudice*, which occurs mainly in legal contexts.
3. When assigning related word forms for students to identify, clarify the target parts of speech. For example, if you want them to identify only the adjective form of the noun *prejudice*, then place an asterisk in the adjective section on the Word Form Chart. This will prevent students from spinning their wheels trying to identify a part of speech that may not even exist or that may be out of their developmental range or beyond the assigned lesson topic.
4. Have students note that sometimes there are two forms of a particular part of speech. When this occurs, explain—or have students explain—the difference in meaning between the two word forms.
5. Encourage students to refer to their completed Word Form Charts when working on follow-up speaking and writing assignments. Hold them accountable for integrating new words in their speaking and writing and using the appropriate word form by factoring in the application of new vocabulary in your assessment practices, such as rubrics.